



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE

(Education)

DepEd, Microsoft, USAID promote education growth in Mindanao

Microsoft and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines), through Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), intensified their commitment to enable students from conflict-affected communities in Mindanao have access to technology that enhances learning with the recent ceremonial signing formalizing a partnership between the two under the Global Framework Agreement.

The agreement presents the direction Microsoft and USAID will take as the two parties work together in the areas of Governance, Economic Growth, Health, Environmental Sustainability, Education, Capacity-Building, Youth Empowerment and Disaster Response/Humanitarian Assistance.

Present during the signing were US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney and Rafael “Pepeng” Rollan, Managing Director, Microsoft Philippines. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Jon Lindborg, Mission Director, USAID/Philippines, and Faycal Bouchlaghem, General Manager for the Unlimited Potential Group, Microsoft Asia Pacific, witnessed the ceremony held before the participants of the Education Summit 2007.

“We are particularly excited with

this ground-breaking partnership with Microsoft. I’d like to thank a great partner, Microsoft, for giving us the technology that we need to reach the talented youth and the future leaders of the Philippines,” said Ambassador Kenney.

According to Rollan, Microsoft Philippines has been working with USAID since 2003. Through the Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program of GEM, 655 secondary and elementary schools in Mindanao have received computers with Microsoft software, provided to GEM through a volume software licensing program under Partners in Learning (PiL).

PiL is the global program for education of Microsoft, with localized programs that seek to empower teachers and equip students with competitive skills. Under PiL, 751 educators from GEM’s partner public schools have taken part in training sessions that help them integrate technology effectively into teaching.

“Our aim is to ensure that schools in remote areas in Mindanao and those affected by discord can keep up with the rest of the world and have access to quality education. Our partnership with Microsoft has made it possible for us to reach more

schools and in effect, reach more teachers and students, who are all able to benefit from technology,” said Lindborg.

Microsoft and USAID will collaborate with the Department of Education (DepEd) and appropriate agencies for the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the Agreement.

“We recognize the role of education in shaping our country. At Microsoft, we share USAID’s vision for our educational system. Through Partners in Learning, we are working with many institutions so that Filipino students can perform better in school and have an enhanced learning experience,” said Rollan.

Photo above shows (from left to right): USAID/Philippines Mission Director Jon Lindborg, Secretary of Education Jesli Lapus, US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney, Rafael “Pepeng” Rollan, Managing Director, Microsoft Philippines and Faycal Bouchlaghem, General Manager for the Unlimited Potential Group, Microsoft Asia Pacific, during the ceremonial signing of Microsoft’s partnership with USAID, a highlight of the two-day Education Summit held last November 19 and 20 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

(Source: Manila Bulletin, 1/13/08, page B5)